



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DARPA RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AGENTS AND CONTRACTORS

Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Anthony J. Tether today announced the winners of the 2004 DARPA Awards for Excellence. These awards, which have been presented at DARPA's Systems and Technology Symposiums since 1985, are designed to recognize outstanding performance by agents and contractors supporting DARPA programs.

The Director's Award for Outstanding Personal Achievement was awarded to Col. William Johnson, USA, for his leadership of the Future Combat Systems (FCS) program at DARPA, and for successfully transitioning the program to the U.S. Army. FCS is a networked system-of-systems that will serve as the core building-block for future U.S. Army maneuver units. Tether explained, "He convinced the Army leadership to accept radically new technologies such as the Micro Air Vehicle, NetFires, and the A-160 unmanned aerial vehicle. Armed with these and other FCS technologies, the U.S. Army will be able to unleash technological surprise on the battlefield and fundamentally change the way ground warfare is fought. Col. Johnson's vision, leadership, technical skill, and Army operational experience directly led to the success of the FCS program. He truly epitomizes the spirit and heritage of DARPA."

DARPA presented the Award for Significant Technical Achievement to Dr. Steven Roth, chief executive officer and founder of MAYA Viz, and his Command Post of the Future (CPOF) team. The CPOF team was recognized for developing technologies that provide military commanders with the ability to conduct command functions in new and novel ways. CPOF enables soldiers at all levels of the operational hierarchy to collaboratively plan missions by real-time sharing of critical information even when they are in different locations. During the ceremony, Tether explained, "For the first time, subordinate commanders using CPOF can begin a parallel planning process in anticipation of a pending mission order. Senior commanders can see the planning underway, and need not ask subordinate commanders for updates. The result is a significantly faster and more responsive planning process." CPOF technology is in use in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Dino Sofianos, division manager, Science Applications International Corp., received the DARPA Award for Sustained Excellence by a Performer for his outstanding performance as a DARPA contractor over many years, and for his substantial and fundamental contributions in several important areas. Sofianos was critical to the development of the Triangulation Identification for Genetic Evaluation of Risks (TIGER) biosensor, which is changing the paradigm for nucleic-acid-based

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detection of biowarfare agents in a way that also has important implications for the diagnosis of naturally occurring disease. In DARPA's Immune Building program, Sofianos led the team that originally proposed the use of chlorine dioxide for rapid decontamination of buildings, which ultimately was successfully used to treat the Hart Senate Office Building when it became contaminated with anthrax. For DARPA's Counter Underground Facilities program, Sofianos' group defined the theoretical limitations of separating a chemical plume from the background clutter. In presenting the award, Tether noted, "Dr. Sofianos combines an exceptionally deep understanding of technical challenges and potential solutions, a broad understanding of the intricacies of structuring successful programs, outstanding leadership skills, and a sustained commitment to excellence."

CDR Eric Rasmussen, MD, USN, received the Award for Sustained Excellence by a Government Agent for the exceptional vision, innovation, and perseverance that have resulted in several successful DARPA programs. Starting in 1995, Rasmussen provided critical leadership in designing and implementing the successful "DARPA One-Way" translation device. In the late 1990s, Rasmussen led efforts to link various DARPA human language technologies into experiments with USS CORONADO. Later, he led the effort to demonstrate early DARPA Translingual Information Detection, Extraction and Summarization (TIDES) technologies in the 2000 Rim of the Pacific maritime exercise, and he continues to play a leading role in applying TIDES research products in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In announcing the award, Tether explained, "CDR Rasmussen's assigned job for the Navy is practicing internal medicine. He works on DARPA activities on his off-time. He has been both a principal investigator and an agent for technical transition. CDR Rasmussen is an exceptional officer and his dedication and leadership have been in the highest DARPA tradition."

DARPA presented the Small Business Innovation Award to the VoxTec division of Marine Acoustics Inc. for their work to develop a voice-to-voice phrase translation system. In September 2001, VoxTec demonstrated the first working Phraselator prototype. Shortly thereafter, DARPA solicited rapid technology insertions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. VoxTec responded with a tactical, robust Phraselator system supporting medical triage, force protection, and refugee reunification for use by troops in Afghanistan. In 89 days, the first advanced prototypes were built, stress-tested, and loaded with three mission packages in Pashto, Dari, Urdu, and Arabic. Ace Sarich, vice president and founder of VoxTec, personally delivered the Phraselators and provided training to operational forces supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. "VoxTec's achievement on this project is borne out by the fact that under a DARPA SBIR Phase III contract, military organizations have purchased approximately 2,000 Phraselators to date," Dr. Tether noted. "The DARPA Phraselator has become a valuable tool for warfighters around the world enabling them to communicate where language resources are scarce."

The awards were presented in Anaheim, Calif., during an evening ceremony at DARPATech 2004, DARPA's 23rd Systems and Technology Symposium.

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